• Paper / Proposal Title:
Land.Arch.Infra: Synergies between teaching and research

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• Abstract (300 words):
This paper will introduce the intricate links between multidisciplinary teaching and research at the Manchester School of Architecture (MSA)’s post-graduate architecture and landscape architecture programmes. The presentation will focus on the Land.Arch.Infra Research Method module and its links with the UK Research and Innovation and Arts and Humanities Research Council supported research project ‘Landscapes of Post-War Infrastructure: Culture, Amenity, Heritage and Industry’ funded under the multidisciplinary Landscape Decisions Framework. The research project brings together academics, policy makers, charities and public bodies in order to understand and find new ways to communicate the various values of infrastructural landscapes.

Land.Arch.Infra is a post-graduate elective unit of the Research Methods module at MSA. The overarching aim of the unit is to provide various approaches towards understanding, interrogating and researching the built environment. Within this framework, Land.Arch.Infra focuses on the post-war (1945-1980) histories of the various intersections between architecture and landscape architecture to introduce students to various methodologies of historical research. The project is taught in a multidisciplinary group for architecture and landscape architecture students. Methodologies, such as archival research, analysis of primary and secondary sources and oral history interviews are combined in the course delivery with design-research methodologies and the techniques of research through making.
Land.Arch.Infra sits within the context of the live research project and network the ‘Landscapes of Post-War Infrastructure’ led by Dr Richard Brook and Dr Luca Csepely-Knorr, and feeds into the public engagement and impact activities of the network. This presentation will explore how these impact activities of the research project benefitted from the pedagogical approach of the unit, and how students gain valuable experience in a live research and impact project, that not just enhances their academic knowledge and research skills, but also equips them with important skills for their professional practices as architect and landscape architects.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Dr Richard Brook is Reader in Architecture at the Manchester School of Architecture. He has an established research record in the field of architecture with a special focus on post-war modern architecture and mapping and visualisation. He is editor of the book Cold War Cities: Spatial Planning, Social and Political Processes, and Cultural Practices in the Age of Atomic Urbanism, 1945-1965 with Martin Dodge and Jonathan Hogg (London: Routledge, 2020), author of Manchester Modern (Manchester: The Modernist Society, 2017) and Infra_MANC. Post-war Mancunian Infrastructure (with Martin Dodge, Manchester: bauprint, 2012). He is Principal Investigator of the project ‘The Landscapes of Post-War Infrastructure: Culture, Amenity, Heritage and Industry’ funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK).

Dr Luca Csepely-Knorr is Reader in Architecture at the Manchester School of Architecture. She was educated in Landscape Architecture (Corvinus University, Budapest), Art History (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest) and Art and Design (Manchester Metropolitan University), and is particularly interested in the international knowledge transfer in landscape and urban design theory during the 20th century. Her book Barren Places to Public Spaces: A History of Public Park Design in Budapest 1867-1914 (Budapest City Archives: Budapest 2016) describes the evolution of Hungarian public park design and theory in an international context. She is Co-Investigator of the project ‘The Landscapes of Post-War Infrastructure: Culture, Amenity, Heritage and Industry’ funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK).